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### Note on *Quercus Muhlenbergii*, ENGELM.

*Quercus Muhlenbergii* is the name proposed by Dr. Engelmann in 1877\* for the oak originally described by Muhlenberg and Willdenow\*\* as *Q. Castanea*, known to Michaux† as *Q. Prinus*, var. *acuminata*, and generally regarded as a variety of *Q. Prinus* by other authors, up to the time of Dr. Engelmann's paper. That it is distinct enough from the common chestnut oak of the Eastern States, all are at present agreed.

The relation of the species under consideration to the *Q. prinoides*, Willd.‡ seems, however, more obscure. The latter was formerly regarded by Dr. Gray as a variety of *Q. Prinus*, and in his manuals is recognized as *Q. Prinus*, var. *humilis*, Marshall. In his last appendix, however, he considers it a distinct species under Willdenow's name. Professor Wood, in his Botanist and Florist, calls it *Q. Prinus*, var. *prinoides*, but in his class-book, *Q. prinoides*, Willd.

That it is more nearly allied to *Q. Muhlenbergii*, than to *Q. Prinus*, however, is plainly indicated in its nearly or quite sessile thin cup, with small globose acorn. Dr. Engelmann was, indeed, inclined to unite it with his *Muhlenbergii*, and in this he has been followed by Mr. Sargent,§ who says: "a tree twenty-four to thirty, or exceptionally thirty-nine meters in height, with a trunk 0.6 to 0.9 meter in diameter (*Q. Muhlenbergii*), or often, especially toward the eastern and western limits of its range, reduced to a low, slender shrub, (*Q. prinoides*); rare as a tree east of the Alleghany Mountains; very common in the Mississippi River basin, and reaching its greatest development in southern Arkansas."

The typical, arborescent, *Q. Muhlenbergii* is known to Professor Porter in five widely separated stations in Pennsylvania, all on limestone soil; he has found it also on the blue Lower Silurian Limestone below Phillipsburg, N. J. I have observed it on sandy soil in the vicinity of Bridgeton, Cumberland Co., and young trees on the white, crystalline limestone of Stir-

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\* *Trans. St. Louis Acad. Sci.*, iii, 591.

\*\* *Neue Schriften Gesell. Nat. Fr.*, Berlin, iii, 396.

† *Hist. Cécènes Amer.*, No. 5, t. 8.

‡ *Loc. cit.*, 397.

§ *Rep. on Forests of N. A.*, Vol. ix, 10th Census U. S., 142, 143.

ling Hill, Sussex Co., N. J., these three localities being the only ones at present known to me in New Jersey. The *Q. prinoides*, Willd., is widely and plentifully distributed through southern and southeastern New Jersey, where it is seldom over four feet high, and commonly fruits at six inches from the ground, occurring also in less abundance in the mountains of the northern part of the State, where it grows somewhat larger and stronger, reaching a height of eight or ten feet about Waterloo, Sussex Co. Prof. Porter has informed me that it has a wide range in Pennsylvania. It is found on Long Island, and extends northward along the coast to Massachusetts. All the numerous specimens which I have examined show a remarkable persistence of leaf and fruit characters, and if it were not assured us on the highest authority that the bushy form passes gradually into the tree in the West, I should not be at all inclined to regard them as the same species. However, as this appears to be the case, I hold that our eastern, shrubby form, is, at least, a well marked variety of Dr. Engelmann's species, and propose for it the name *Quercus Muhlenbergii*, Engelm., var. *HUMILIS*.

N. L. BRITTON.

### Index to Recent American Botanical Literature.

*Adventitious Inflorescence of Cuscuta glomerata known to the Germans.* C. E. Bessey. (Amer. Nat., xx., pp. 278-279).

Referring to notes on this interesting subject presented by him at the Philadelphia and Ann Arbor meetings of the American Association, Prof. Bessey remarks that the matter had previously been described in Dodel-Port's *Atlas der Botanik*. Dr. Dodel-Port, after describing the normal branching, says in substance: "Besides the normal branching there is a copious formation of adventitious shoots. These are formed endogenously upon the best nourished parts of the *Cuscuta* stem, and also upon the parts which bear the haustoria, where the host-plant and the parasite are in immediate contact. The rudimentary shoot-buds are formed beneath the cortex of the *Cuscuta* stem, and break through in a manner similar to the lateral roots of vascular plants. They develop either into inflorescences, or upon injury to the rest of the plant, into vegetation shoots."